

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

INT-08 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-15 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 SCEM-02 AEC-11 DRC-01 DODE-00

PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 /170 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7124

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS TOKYO 12623

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH JA, FR, NG

SUBJECT: JAPAN, FRANCE AND NIGER URANIUM PROJECT

SUMMARY: THE JAPANESE OURD CO, FRENCH CEA AND GON SIGNED AN AGREEMENT JUNE 1, 1970, FOR JOINT URANIUM PROSPECTING IN NIGER. AS A RESULT, A JOINT CORPORATION OF THE THREE IS PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR TO BEGIN URANIUM PRODUCTION IN 1979. RESERVES ESTIMATED AT 1500 TONNE METAL PER YEAR FOR 15 YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 1, 1970, THE JAPANESE OVERSEAS URANIUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CO, THE FRENCH CEA, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR JOINT PROSPECTING FOR URANIUM IN NIGER. AS A RESULT OF THE SURVEYS, OURD INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT CORPORATION WITH CEA AND GON FOR DEVELOPMENT OF URANIUM RESOURCES IN THE AKUTA REGION OF NIGER. THE JAPANESE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY APPROVED THE OURD PLAN ON SEPT 21, 1973, WHICH CONSTITUTES A MAJOR STEP FOR OURD PARTICIPATION. REPORTS FROM TANAKA-MESSMER PARIS CONFERENCE SEPT 27 INDICATE SERIOUS CEA INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE. A THREE-MEMBER CORPORATION EXPECTED TO BE SET UP DURING 1974.

2. OURDC WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1970 IN JAPAN FOR THE NIGER

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PROJECT WITH INVESTMENTS FROM ELECTRIC UTILITIES, MINING COM-

PANIES, ELECTRIC MACHINERY MANUFACTURERS AND OTHER BUSINESS OR-
GANIZATIONS. OURDC WILL REPORTEDLY OWN 25 PERCENT OF THE
CORPORATION. PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED TO BEGIN IN 1979. RE-
SERVES ARE ESTIMATED ADEQUATE FOR PRODUCTION OF 1500 TONNES
URANIUM METAL EACH YEAR FOR 15 YEAR PERIOD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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